

Remarks

By the present amendment, claims 3, 4, 12 and 16 have been amended in order to delete multiple dependencies. The Preliminary Amendment does not contain new matter.

Entry of the above preliminary amendment is respectfully requested. Please calculate the claim fee for the application once the amendment has been entered.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 3, 4, 12 and 16 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence which hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 1 [or 2].

4. (Amended) A recombinant expression vector adapted for transformation of a host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 3] and one or more transcription and translation elements operatively linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding the SMAK protein [is according to any one of claims 1 to 3] comprises

(i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a SMAK protein having the nucleic acid sequence as shown in Figure 1, wherein T can also be U;

(ii) a nucleic acid sequence complementary to (i);

(iii) a nucleic acid molecule differing from any of the nucleic acids of (i) and (ii) in codon sequences due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

16. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 13 [to 15] wherein the cell is in an animal.